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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,017	11/24/2003	Shuji Fujii	PRON: 002	9160
6160	7590	04/02/2004	EXAMINER	
PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P. 1421 PRINCE STREET SUITE 210 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2805			LEE, JINHEE J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2831	

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/719,017	Applicant(s) FUJII, SHUJI	
	Examiner Jinhee J Lee	Art Unit 2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>0104</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) based upon an application filed in Japan on 11/25/2002.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the rigid bodies of claims 2 and 3, rigid body of claim 6 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

Specification

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the reference characters are not in parenthesis. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

5. Claims 1 and 5 are objected to because of the following informalities:
Claim 1 line 1, change "wherein" to "comprising".

Claim 5 line 2, change "wherein" to "comprising".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakich et al. (US005444429A).

Re claim 1, Sakich et al. discloses a polymer insulator apparatus wherein plural polymer post insulators (214) are arranged in parallel and are connected at each one end and each other end thereof to enhance the strength along the arranged direction in parallel of the polymer insulators (see figures 11 and 13).

Re claim 2, Sakich et al. discloses a polymer insulator apparatus, wherein the plural polymer post insulators are connected by rigid bodies (290 and 294 for example, see column 7 lines 45-50) at both ends thereof.

Re claim 3, Sakich et al. discloses a polymer insulator apparatus, wherein the plural polymer post insulators are connected rigidly by the rigid bodies (290 and 294 for example, see column 7 lines 45-50) at both ends thereof.

Re claim 4, Sakich et al. discloses a polymer insulator apparatus, wherein the plural polymer post insulators are connected by a supporting structure (294) at one end thereof and are connected by a plate member (290) at the other end thereof.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakich et al. in view of Ramos et al. (US005091616A).

Re claim 5, Sakich et al. substantially discloses a method for mounting plural post insulators on a supporting structure, wherein the plural polymer post insulators are connected to the supporting structure (290, 294) at each one end thereof to be arranged in parallel, each other end of the polymer post insulators is connected, and the direction of parallel arrangement of the plural post insulators is vertical to enhance the strength along the arranged direction in parallel of the polymer insulators (see figures 11 and 13). Sakich et al. does not explicitly disclose that the axial direction of the plural post insulators is horizontal. However, Ramos et al. teaches of plural post insulators, wherein the axial direction is horizontal (see figures 3 and 4). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the horizontal post insulators of Ramos et al. on the device of Sakich et al. in order to provide tiered configuration.

Re claim 6, note that the device of Sakich et al. includes a method, wherein the plural polymer post insulators are connected by a rigid body (290, 294) at each other end thereof.

Re claim 7, note that the device of Sakich et al. includes a method, wherein the plural polymer post insulators are connected rigidly (see figure 11).

Re claim 8, note that the device of Sakich et al. includes a method, wherein weight of load acts in the vertical direction (see figure 11).


Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jinhee J Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-1977. The examiner can normally be reached on M, T, Th and F at 6:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean A Reichard can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jjl
March 25, 2004


DEAN A. REICHARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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